

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MARSEILLE 501

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT FR

SUBJECT: UDR - R.I. CLASH OVER TOULON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

1. LONG SIMMERING POLITICAL RIVALRY BETWEEN TOULON'S MAYOR MAURICE ARRECKX (R.I.) AND NAYOR OF SAINTE MAXIME/DEPUTY OF THE VAR, AYMERIC SIMON-LORIERE (UDR) ERUPTED NOVEMBER 17 WITH SIMON-LORIERE'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD RUN AGAINST ARRECKX IN UPCOMING TOULON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. EXPLAINING HIS INTENTION TO RUN WITH SEPARATE LIST, SIMON-LORIERE STATED HIS "TEAM" WOULD BE MADE UP PRIMARILY OF TECH ICIANS, ADMINISTRATORS, SPECIALISTS IN CIVIC PROBLEMS AND NOT POLITICIANS." TO SUPPORT HIS CANDIDATURE SIMON-LORIERE QUOTED A RECENT SOFRES POLL TAKEN IN TOULON. FIRST QUESTION "FOR WHICH LIST WOULD YOU VOTE IF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD NEXT SUNDAY?" RESPONSE: "UNION OF LEFT, 44 PERCENT; SIMON-LORIERE, 32 PERCENT; MAURIC ARRECKX, 24 PERCENT. SECOND QUESTION: "IF DURING SECOND ROUND OF VOTING YOU HAVE CHOICE BETWEEN TWO LISTS WHICH WOULD YOU MOST LIKELY CHOOSE?" RESPONSE: "UNION OF LEFT, 42 PERCENT; SIMON-LORIERE, 58 PERCENT.

2. ARRECKX, WHO HAS BEEN MAYOR OF TOULON SINCE 1959, COUNTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTACKED THE SAME DAY WITH PRESS RELEASE STATING THAT HIS

ELECTORAL LIST WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL PARTIES OF MAJORITY.
ARRECKX CHARACTERIZED SIMON-LORIERE'S ANNOUNCEMENT AS "NO SURPRISE"
AND ACCUSED HIM OF CARRYING OUT A CAMPAIGN OF "DEMAGOGERY,
UNTRUTHS, LOCAL AND NATIONAL INTOXICATION TO WHICH, AT THE EXPRESS
REQUEST OF THE PRIME MINISTER, WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT RESPONDED
UNTIL NOW."

COMMENT: SIMON-LORIERE'S INTENTION TO CHALLENGE ARRECKX IN
TOULON HAS BEEN NO SECRET BUT MEMBERS OF MAJORITY HAVE BEEN
ATTEMPTING TO REACH COMPROMISE TO AVOID WHAT HAS NOW HAPPENED.
RIVALRY BETWEEN TWO MEN IS BITTER AND SUPPORTED BY CONSIDERABLE
PERSONAL ANIMOSITY. ARRECKX'S SUPPORTERS DESCRIBE SIMON-
LORIERE AS "YOUNG WOLF". SIMON-LORIERE'S TEAM CONSIDER ARRECKX
AS "OUTDATED POLITICIAN". UNION OF LEFT CAN BE EXPECTED TO
INTENSIFY EFFORTS IN TOULON FOLLOWING THIS MAJORITY SPLIT. COMMUNIST
DAILY
"LA MARSEILLAISE" OF NOVEMBER 18 COMMENTS "ALL
THESE LOW POLITICAL MANEUVERS CAN BE REDUCED TO ZERO IF THE PEOPLE
OF TOULON ELECT LIST OF THE LEFT, THE ONLY GUARANTEE THAT CHANGES
HOPE
FOR BY IMMENSE MAJORITY OF POPULATION WILL BE APPLIED."
SIMPSON

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